

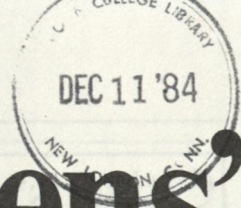
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# Citizens' Bulletin

"The smartest  
wild mammal  
in North America ..."

Volume 12 Number 2 October 1984 \$5/yr.  
The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection





# Citizens' Bulletin

October 1984

Volume 12 Number 2 \$5/yr.  
Cover Photo: Leonard Lee Rue III

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## Wastewater Treatment Training Center Funded

The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection has received a \$346,395 grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to establish and operate a training center for municipal wastewater treatment plant operators. Stanley J. Pac, Commissioner of the DEP noted that the department is eligible for an additional \$55,605.

The facility, located at a former Connecticut State Police training center in Bethany, will be renovated and equipped as a site for entry-level and advanced wastewater treatment training. The center will provide classroom and office space, conference room, and a wastewater treatment laboratory. A portion of the building will also be used by members of the Conservation and Preservation Division of the DEP.

The wastewater treatment field is very rapidly expanding and increasing in complexity. Many municipalities are experiencing difficulty in finding qualified people to operate wastewater treatment plants. The training center is being established to assist the owners of wastewater treatment facilities in upgrading the operational and maintenance skills of employees.

"It is most important that the state's water quality and the

"The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection is an equal opportunity agency that provides services, facilities and employment opportunities without regard to race, color, religion, age, sex, physical handicap, national origin, ancestry, marital status or political beliefs."

hundreds of millions of dollars invested in wastewater treatment facilities by federal, state and local governments be protected," said Pac.

In support of this effort, the DEP has recently upgraded its wastewater treatment operator regulations and has received \$145,000 in federal monies for training operators. The DEP's Local Assistance and Program Coordination Unit administers the training program and center.

"The use of this site not only provides for a much needed training facility, but also puts to use an unoccupied state structure and allows for the efficient use of space through the consolidation of DEP offices," said Pac.

## Heublein Tower Hours Extended

Stanley J. Pac, Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), today announced that Heublein Tower in Avon will remain open to the public, daily, through the end of October this year. Last year, the tower was open weekends from mid-September to mid-October and then Sundays only to the end of October.

"The extended hours," Pac said, "will be made possible by a one-time grant of \$5,000 from the Friends of Heublein Tower, Inc., a newly organized, private, non-profit corporation, dedicated to the restoration and improvement of the tower. The funds will be used strictly for salaries of personnel to manage the facility during the fall months. The department is grateful to the Friends of Heublein Tower for making it possible for visitors to enjoy the spectacular view from the tower during this particularly beautiful season."

Heublein Tower can be reached by a short walk from Talcott Mountain State Park, Summit Drive off Route 185 in Simsbury. The tower is open daily from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



# The Coyote Moves into Connecticut

## A new and very intelligent kid on the block

*DEP Wildlife Information Series*

### General

Since the elimination of native timber wolves in the late 1800's, the New England area has been without a large wild canid population. Recently, however, this situation has changed. The coyote, *Canis latrans*, is now part of Connecticut's ecosystem, having extended its range eastward from the midwest during the last 100 years. Although it has been called the brush wolf, new wolf, prairie wolf, or coydog, the new wild canid in Connecticut is, in fact, the coyote. The eastern coyote is generally larger in size than its western counterpart; this may be the result of interbreeding with wolves or dogs or both, as these animals were most apt to survive and reproduce in the northern areas along the migration route.

The coyote was first reported in Connecticut in the late 1950's and has since expanded its range throughout the state, though heavier concentrations are found in Hartford and Litchfield counties. The distribution of these adaptable animals has been documented largely through sighting reports, vehicle-kill data, and hunting and trapping records.

The typical coyote's appearance is similar to that of a small German shepherd, but several characteristics

distinguish it from a dog. The coyote has a long, tapered muzzle, yellow eyes, wide, pointed ears, and a bushy tail which is carried low to the ground or between the hind legs. The coyote is about four feet in length from nose to tail and appears much heavier than it really is; most adults weigh from 25 to 40 pounds with males typically heavier than females.

The pelage (or fur) is usually a grizzled-gray color with a cream-colored or white underside. The coat is thick, particularly during winter, and may be reddish-brown on some individuals. The coyote's most easily identifiable features are the black V-shaped shoulder harness and a black-tipped tail which has a black spot near its base covering a distinctive scent gland. Not all animals, however, feature the black markings.

### Vocalizations

Best known for its howling and yelping, the coyote uses a sequence of high-pitched cries to communicate with other members of its kind. In addition, it also barks, growls, wails, and squeals. Two coyotes howling in unison can create the illusion of a dozen or more performing in concert. The coyote usually selects a summit or knoll from which to howl and is most

often heard around dawn and dusk. It may respond to sirens and fire whistles, however, at any time of day or night.

### Habits

The fertile river valleys and other agricultural land of Connecticut and the northeast are prime habitat for the coyote. It is referred to as an "edge" species because brushy fields bordering stands of second-growth hardwoods and fields interspersed with thickets and marshland are its preferred habitat. The coyote is found both in rural and suburban areas. It is one of the few wild animal species that has adapted to human-disturbed environments and can thrive in close proximity to populated areas. It is chiefly nocturnal, but may be observed at dawn or dusk.

Although the coyote is classified as a carnivore and is primarily a predator, it also feeds on plant material at certain times of the year. In spring and summer, insects such as grasshoppers and crickets, as well as snakes, frogs, birds, and small mammals are eaten. During late summer and early fall, fruits and berries may make up a large portion of the diet. During winter, when food is scarce, the coyote will occasionally kill deer, but depends





*The eastern coyote is generally larger in size than its western counterpart.*

mainly on carrion (dead animal matter), cottontail rabbits, and mice. The coyote is an opportunist and may feed on domestic livestock under certain circumstances.

### **Reproduction**

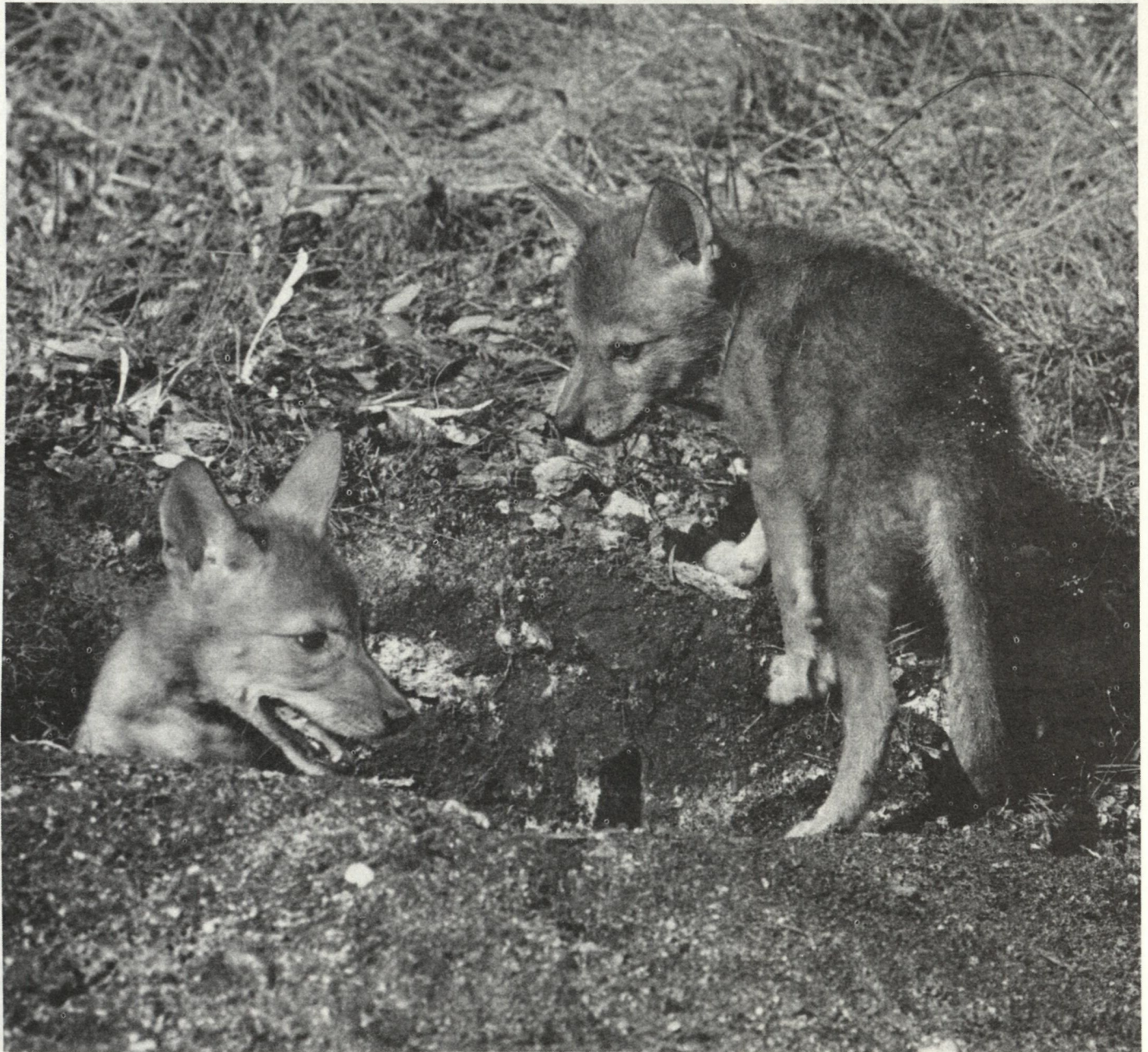
The coyote mates for life. In Connecticut, the breeding season is from January to March, and the gestation period is about 63 days. Although the adult animal can dig its own den, it usually enlarges the abandoned burrow of a woodchuck or fox. The female is primarily responsible for den preparation and maintenance. Pups are born in the spring (April to mid-May), and litters range in size from one to as many as 12 pups; the average is five to six. Pups are weaned at about six to eight weeks. Both parents care for the pups, and take them along on hunting forays when they are eight to thirteen weeks old so they can learn to catch their own prey. The family group usually breaks up in the fall or early winter when the young disperse. Although several members of a coyote family may hunt together in midwinter, they do not form true packs as do wolves.

Nearly full-grown by the ninth month, the eastern coyote is unlike



*The coyote is classified as a carnivore and is primarily a predator.*





*Pups are born in the spring and litters range in size from one to as many as twelve pups.*

the western coyote which reaches breeding age its first year. The eastern coyote may not breed until nearly two years of age. The highest mortality rate in a population is found in the juvenile (less than one year old) age-class.

The coyote is susceptible to all the common canine diseases. Sarcoptic mange, one of the most excruciating parasitic diseases, can affect large numbers, particularly when the population is dense and the chance of transmission is high. In Connecticut, many are also killed by automobiles.

#### **Economic and Social Values**

The coyote is a predator, and may occasionally kill domestic stock or deer. Research studies have shown, however, that while the coyote does kill deer, much of what it eats is carrion. Also it may help keep nuisance rodent populations in check. A balanced ecosystem needs a large predator at the top of the food chain and, in Connecticut as elsewhere, the coyote plays this role effectively. In many instances, though, this animal is blamed for predation caused by the domestic dog.

The coyote is regarded as a renewable fur resource which, in Connecticut, is managed through regulated hunting and trapping seasons so that the population status and distribution can be monitored.

#### **Control of Nuisances**

The coyote has an uncanny ability to maintain and expand its population despite any existing control method; its present range throughout North America is testimony to this. Natural mortality (disease, starvation) and man-caused mortality (hunting, trapping,



road-kills) will limit the population in Connecticut to a certain extent. Undoubtedly though, lacking large tracts of undeveloped habitat, some animals will attempt to live in areas interspersed with farms and human dwellings. Depredation of poultry, livestock, and other domestic animals may be the consequence of an expanding coyote population where young are dispersing annually to establish new territories. The social structure of this wily canid is such that each family group defends a specific area from intrusion by other coyotes.

In areas where the coyote is causing damage through depredation, selective elimination of the offending animal or animals is the best method of control. The coyote may be hunted year-round and trapped during the regulated fall/winter season. Contact the Wildlife Bureau for specific regulations pertaining to the removal of nuisance coyotes and pelt-tagging procedures.

The removal and proper disposal of dead poultry or livestock is highly recommended as a preventive measure, whether coyotes are in the area or not. The bodies of domestic animals left to degrade in the woods may attract coyotes from quite a distance and instill in them a taste for live domestic animals. Susceptible livestock and poultry should be penned in at night. Certain breeds of sheepdogs may be effective guardians against coyotes.

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*The coyote is one of the few animal species that has adapted to human-disturbed environments.*



# Park Oddities

## Some Little-known Facts about our Well-known State Parks

By John Waters

*John Waters died March 18 at the age of 78. This is the last of a long and popular series of articles on Connecticut state parks and other environmental topics that he wrote for the Citizens' Bulletin. He joined DEP's Information and Education Unit in 1977 under the federal Senior Environmental Employment Program (SEE) after retiring from a career in advertising and public relations.*

At one time, when what is now Gay City State Park was actually a community, members of the Gay family, who made up most of its population, set about building a woolen mill. Oxen hauled stones weighing up to a ton for the foundation and for building a dam-end and canal for water power. The canal was ten feet deep at the dam-end and ran a quarter of a mile along the side of a hill and up a slight incline. Although jobs were not plentiful in such a tiny community, one of the workmen suddenly quit his job and refused to come back. Upon investigation, it was found that he wanted nothing to do with any project where "they were making water flow uphill." It smacked of witchcraft, and he wasn't having any part of it. Nevertheless, the mill was quite successful as long as it could obtain wool from neighboring farmers, but it failed as a result of British blockades during

the War of 1812. Ultimately, the community ceased to exist.

One of old Gay City's curious laws demanded compulsory attendance at two church services a week. That checks with what you've always been told about the pious blue-noses who settled New England, doesn't it? Well, don't believe everything you hear. Why? Because in Gay City, it was the custom to serve generous dollops of strong booze at each of the services, and sometimes things got a bit out of hand. So much so, in fact, that quite a few of the families pulled up stakes and moved to Glastonbury where, until lately, there wasn't even a first-class pub.

\*\*\*

A section of Kettletown State Park in Southbury, where the village of Kettletown once was, has the distinction of being the first place in the world where Hitler's Third Reich was defeated. It happened in this way:

In America, long before Hitler came into power, there were numerous German fraternal organizations formed by German immigrants or their descendants. In the 30's, when Hitler set out to restore the morale of Germany, which had been shattered by World War I and disastrous inflation, some of these American organizations became over-sympathetic and tilted in a militaristic direction.

In 1937, one such organization, or "bund," purchased 1,200 acres in Kettletown, cleared them, and built a barracks and drill ground, presumably to train home-grown storm troopers. All this was done before the citizens knew what was going on. When they found out, however, they enacted belated zoning restrictions and made arrests, although the United States was not yet at war with Germany. Hence the claim that this was the Third Reich's first defeat. The rest weren't that easy.

\*\*\*

One-acre Minnie Island State Park on Gardner Lake in Salem is small, but it seems to accumulate legends. According to one of these legends, years ago there was a house on the island. Inasmuch as nobody lived on the island, the presence of the house didn't make much sense. Perceiving this, some ambitious souls decided to bring it back to the mainland. After waiting for winter to freeze the lake, they huffed and they puffed and they hauled and they tugged, but the house must have been heavier than expected. Night fell, with the house only halfway across.

Night fell, but the temperature didn't. In fact, it went up and up and up all through the night. Next morning, no house! But folks around Minnie Island knew it hadn't been stolen, because there it was, sitting smack on the bottom of the lake.



And it wasn't sunburn that caused a lot of red faces that morning.

\*\*\*

Houses aren't the only things that submerge in Connecticut's parks and forests. In Cockaponset State Forest, a brook runs through a hollow known as Tokus Hole. Tokus was an Indian chief who, like most chiefs of this time, had enemies. One day, just when Tokus was fully mounted and resplendent in battle dress, one of his enemies came on like Gang Busters. Tokus headed elsewhere, namely to the brook. Unfortunately, the path the horse selected for crossing happened to be a deep bed of quicksand. It was very quick quicksand because, before Tokus could dismount, it swallowed the whole horse and Tokus with it, battle dress and all. Legend has it that, to this day, Tokus is down there sitting on his horse. And who is to say he isn't?

\*\*\*

"The Seventh Sister" is the original name of what is now called Gillette Castle, the 24-room medieval mansion that is the nucleus of 184-acre Gillette Castle State Park in East Haddam. The famous but eccentric actor, William Gillette, who personally designed it and had it built on the heights above the Chester-Hadlyme ferry, named it after the southernmost hill of a chain known as the Seven Sisters.

The castle is full of odd conceits. For example, the mansion has 47 doors, but no two are alike. Light-switches and door latches are hand-carved wood. Couches are built in, but there is a movable table that runs on tracks. Gillette was so pleased with his creation that his will ordered executors to make sure this property did not "fall into the hands of some blithering sap-head who has no conception of where he is or with what he is surrounded." Gillette, a descendant of one of the founders of Hartford, went to Trinity, Yale, Harvard, M.I.T., and the College of the City of New York, without bothering to graduate from any of them. Instead, he became an actor, creating the role of Sherlock Holmes in America. It made him famous and rich, and he used his wealth to create the fabulous castle that so many people have enjoyed visiting. ■

Parks & Recreation Unit photos



*Gay City State Park, where water was made to flow uphill.*



*Kettletown State Park was the first place in the world where the Third Reich was defeated.*



# Two Bees or Not Two Bees

## Some Notes on Insect Mimicry

*Text and Illustrations by Paul A. Godwin, Research Entomologist,  
Forest Service, United States Department of Agriculture*

Mimes abound in this world. To our senses some are good at mimicry, others not so good. I doubt, though, that man (in the species sense, I hasten to add) has had much to do in the selection process of insect mimicry. In any event, it has been a successful stratagem: a case, I suppose, where if it is worth doing, it is worth doing badly. There is only one Santa Claus, yet even the least convincing of his street-corner pretenders disarms us. And then there are all those young innocents who, on All Hallow's Eve, masquerade as ghosts and witches and goblins to frighten their elders away. It doesn't always work. There are always a few lovable clowns and fairy princesses mixed in who give it all away. Anyway, insects carry on these deceptions too.

There is a lot of information around on the theory of mimicry, for those interested. Dr. Carl Rettenmeyer, at the University of Connecticut, has studied mimicry among insects. He has a marvelous collection of photographs of mimics and other disguises that insects use. Mimics, Dr. Rettenmeyer says, are those insect species that resemble other insect species, either physically or behaviorally. Other deceptions, such as those where the insect looks like a leaf or a bird dropping, are known as adaptive resemblances.

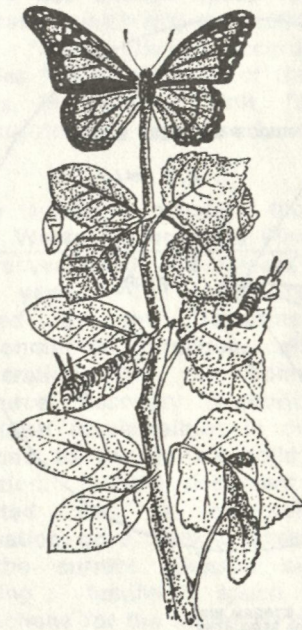
For mimicry to work as a survival stratagem, there has to be a model for the mimic to copy. The insect model has to have something about it that causes nasty things to happen to the unwary creature that eats it or

molests it in some way. And those nasty things, usually, are terrible and swift so that even slow learners make a connection between the color or pattern or shape of the model and the unpleasantness. Many models have evolved bright colors and striking patterns -- visual aids to make learning and later recognition easier. There is little to be gained by being subtle about it, for it helps not at all to be swallowed before the predator realizes it has goofed.

Probably, the best known insect mimic in Connecticut is the viceroy butterfly, *Limenitis archippus*. The monarch butterfly, *Danaus plexippus*, is the model. Monarch caterpillars eat milkweeds. Some milkweeds contain compounds that induce vomiting. Despite this, monarchs eat them, and accumulate these emetic chemicals in their bodies, with no ill effects. So, when a predator, such as a bird, eats a monarch butterfly, well -- whoops! Eating a monarch can be an altogether upsetting experience. Meanwhile, the viceroy, which eats willow and poplar leaves, masquerades as a monarch and goes about its business unmolested.

We humans are not much given to eating monarchs -- we can watch birds, and monarchs, and viceroys with detached condescension. But, let a bee get in the house, let a

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*A composite drawing of the monarch and viceroy butterflies. The monarch is the left-hand side.*



# State Facing a Time of Crisis

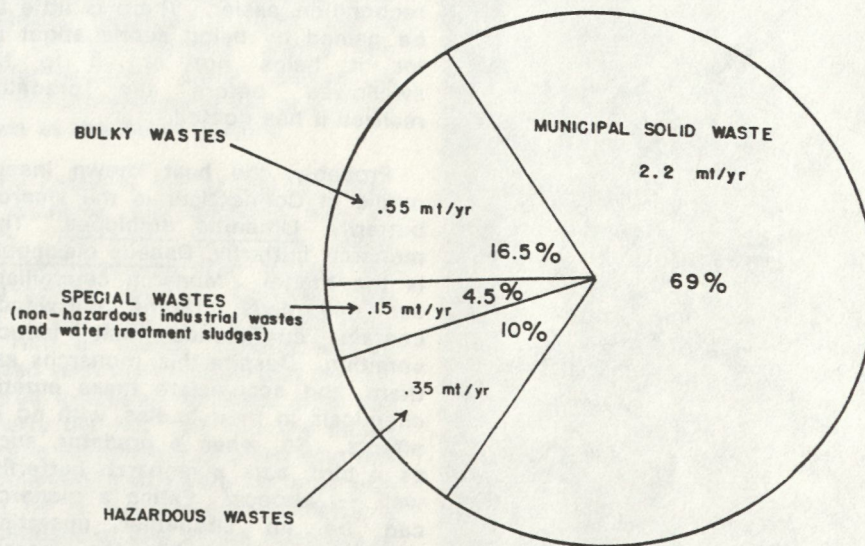
## Solid Waste Disposal: A Need for Cooperation and Commitment

By Robert Paier

Figure 1

### Solid Waste Analysis 1983

TOTAL ANNUAL WASTE STREAM = 3.25 MILLION TONS PER YEAR (mt/yr)



NOTE: BREAKDOWN OF SOLID WASTE STREAM INTO MAJOR COMPONENTS DEFINED AND REGULATED BY THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT.

Source: 1983 Department of Environmental Protection estimates for Connecticut compiled by the Solid Waste Management Unit.

The state of Connecticut is right now facing a situation of crisis proportions in regard to the disposal of municipal solid waste. In this article, an attempt will be made to describe the nature and extent of this crisis, what solutions have been proposed and put into effect, and, most importantly, how we, the citizens of Connecticut, can respond to the situation which is before us.

### Solid Waste: What It Is and Where It Goes.

Solid waste is defined as unwanted or discarded materials, including solid, liquid, semi-solid, or gaseous materials. Connecticut's solid waste stream can be broken down into the following areas: municipal solid waste, composed of residential, commercial, and institutional waste, which is normally collected by conventional means; special wastes, which are non-hazardous wastes that require special handling; and hazardous wastes, which are materials that may pose a threat to human health or the environment if improperly managed. Municipal solid waste represents by far the largest part of Connecticut's total solid waste generation. (See figure 1.)

It has been possible to estimate with some precision the actual amount of municipal solid waste



generated in Connecticut. The state has an estimated population of 3.2 million. On the average, each person generates 3.5 pounds of solid waste per day, or 0.7 tons per year. Therefore, the total estimated generation of solid waste in Connecticut is 2.2 million tons per year.

In the past, and continuing up to the present, 95 percent of this tonnage was disposed of in landfills, on a town by town basis. The practice of using landfills was characterized by the 1973 state Legislature as follows:

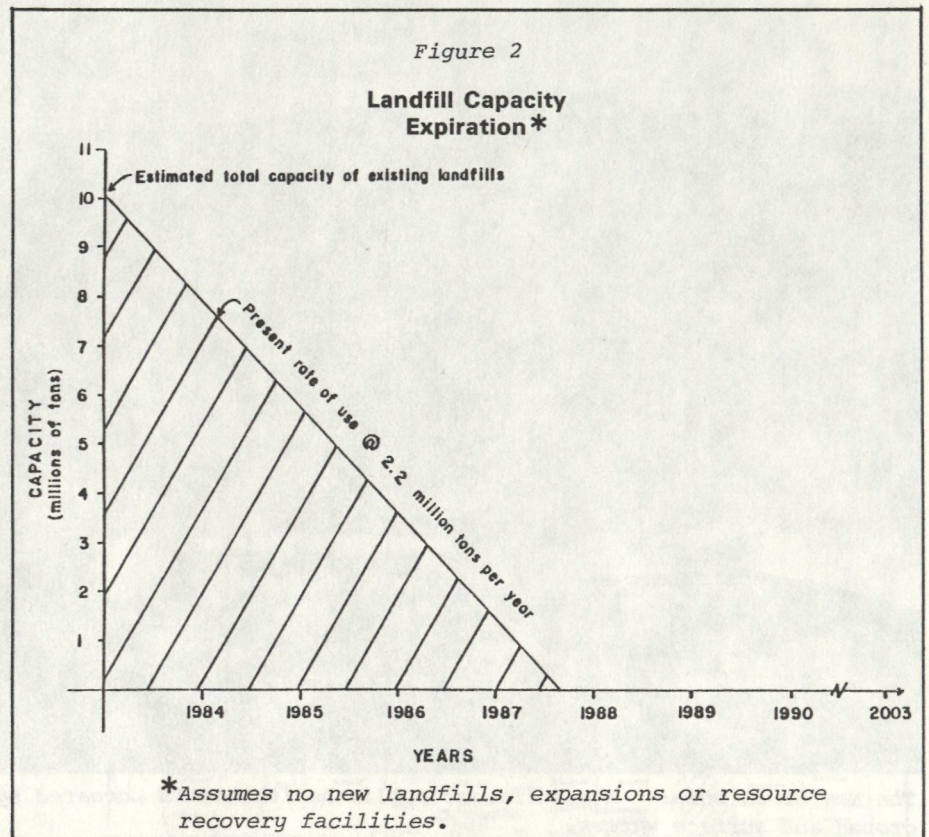
"... prevailing solid waste disposal practices (i.e., landfills) generally, throughout the state, result in unnecessary environmental damage, waste valuable land and other resources, and constitute a continuing hazard to the health and welfare of the people of the state."

One of the most significant public health hazards created by landfills, according to Robert Myers, senior environmental analyst at DEP's Solid Waste Management Unit, is the damage done to our ground and surface waters. As a result of leachate which is unavoidably produced by every landfill, the hazard is particularly serious in regard to ground water. "In a state with a continuous increase in use of clean potable water, and which prides itself on the quality of that water," says Myers, "it behooves us to protect and preserve this valuable resource to the very best of our ability. If we do not, those who come after us will think ill of us when they find themselves short of good water due to our short-sightedness."

In 1983, the Department of Environmental Protection drafted a revised Solid Waste Management Plan. At that time, the document indicated that the ultimate disposal capacity of the existing landfills in Connecticut was 10 million tons. With an annual generation of 2.2 million tons of municipal solid waste, it was calculated that by 1987 the state would run out of existing permitted landfill space. (See figure 2.) To date, that situation has not changed.

#### The State-wide Plan

Historically, the disposal of solid waste has been handled by individual



municipalities. The situation we are now facing with imminent depletion of landfill space is such that a new solution must be found. There is simply not enough space for each separate municipality to landfill on its own. "Many towns," according to Charles Kurker, director of the Solid Waste Management Unit, "are up against the wall right now."

By legislative mandate, the State Solid Waste Management Plan must be re-evaluated and revised every two years. The 1983 revision, drafted by the Department of Environmental Protection, called for cooperation with the Connecticut Resource Recovery Authority and individual municipalities in order to respond to the state's solid waste situation. The document that resulted was a comprehensive evaluation, on a town by town basis, of the current disposal systems, existing landfill space, and projections for the future. It outlined short- and long-term plans as a basic framework from which to begin. Those responsible for the plan stress its flexibility and a willingness to adjust to any specific situation. The 1983 Solid Waste Management Plan remains the

primary working document addressing this situation.

The main goal of the plan is to "maximize volume reduction," to reduce the quantity of solid waste disposed of in landfills. It is to that end that all the strategies outlined in the plan, both for the short- and long-term, are directed.

The short-term objective is to use existing landfills as efficiently as possible. This may require that solid waste be handled on a regional level, and that municipalities work out balanced, mutually beneficial methods for sharing existing landfills. As of this writing, many of Connecticut's municipalities are involved in some level of cooperative effort. In some regions, the commitment to a coordinated plan of activity is complete and working smoothly, and in others, feasibility studies are in progress, in which economic, social, and political ramifications of proposed commitments are being weighed. In this regard, according to Kurker, there is cause for some optimism. Cooperative action is in evidence.

Aside from the short-term strategy, and because of the critical





*The New Haven Dump: A significant public health hazard created by landfills is the damage to our ground and surface waters.*

nature of the situation, interim measures have been taken. This involves "vertical expansion," or simply making higher mountains of solid waste. "All this does," says Kurker, "is buy a little time for a few towns."

The long-term objective of the plan is resource recovery, the conversion of solid waste into usable energy forms. This is accomplished by the processing of refuse into burnable fuel or by the direct burning of refuse and reclamation of the heat-energy produced through such products as steam or electricity. Perceived as the most desirable and efficient system for the longest period of time, this solution can reduce the volume of solid waste as much as 90 percent. Because even this system produces some residue, there will continue to be a need for landfill space.

Incorporated within the long-term strategy, in conjunction with resource recovery, are plans for source separation and incineration. Proposal of other ideas for utilization in the long-term strategy is encouraged for consideration and possible inclusion. The overall plan is developed in stages, allowing each

municipality to propose revisions and to determine interim measures where appropriate.

### The Wasteshed

An important concept in the plan is that of the wasteshed. A wasteshed is a grouping of contiguous towns to be served by one resource recovery system consisting of one or more energy conversion facilities, one or more residue and back-up landfills, and one haulage system, all under one administration.

The long-term strategy was developed on the basis of these wastesheds, which were in turn based on and centered around the most advantageous energy markets. Where energy markets are well defined, wastesheds are rather firmly fixed. When this definition is less certain, wastesheds are more open to modification in response to data gained through studies now in progress. Whenever a town or a group of towns has proposed a wasteshed, that wasteshed has been accepted, provided it meets the criterion of not precluding the potential for any other town to solve its solid waste disposal problem in

an economic and environmentally acceptable way. (See figure 3.)

### Moving Toward Implementation

At the present time, there is only one resource recovery plant in operation in Connecticut, the Windham facility. This facility is not yet a complete success, in that the original market for the converted energy is no longer available. Nevertheless, the existence of this plant does demonstrate that resource recovery is indeed technologically feasible. "The technology to do what we want to do is there," says Kurker. "It's proven, and it has been used. The Windham plant is still using the basic conversion system, and refuse is still being processed."

Beyond this, according to Carmine DiBattista, director of DEP's Local Assistance and Program Coordination Unit, there are currently eight resource recovery feasibility studies being conducted throughout the state under a grant program authorized by P.A. 83-151. These projects represent significant interchange between municipal and state government. Meaningful, cooperative dialogue is occurring.



The hope is that the feasibility studies will identify the potential for the development of resource recovery projects and sufficiently interest and encourage the municipalities to engender participation in a resource recovery project.

### Problem Areas

There are indeed problem areas in regard to the realization of the long-term objective. The issues involved are complex and wide-ranging, and at every juncture it is necessary to take into account social and economic realities, as well as the limitations imposed by present environmental regulations. What is a good answer in one context may cause serious difficulty in another.

The single most important problem, however, according to Myers, is that the public simply does not perceive the gravity of the situation. "The average citizen only knows that every Wednesday morning he takes out his garbage and somebody comes and hauls it away. As long as that happens, he doesn't perceive any problem. But some Wednesday morning, in the very near future, nobody is going to come and haul it away because there will be no place to put it."

It is necessary that the citizens of Connecticut become aware of the solid waste situation, and recognize the necessity of commitment to resource recovery, says Myers. "The problem is made difficult by the fact that we are addressing a twenty-year problem with two-year government." So far, because of the financial commitment required, municipal officials have had difficulty in convincing a constituency which perceives no problem -- which so far has had the garbage taken away every week -- that resource recovery is critically necessary.

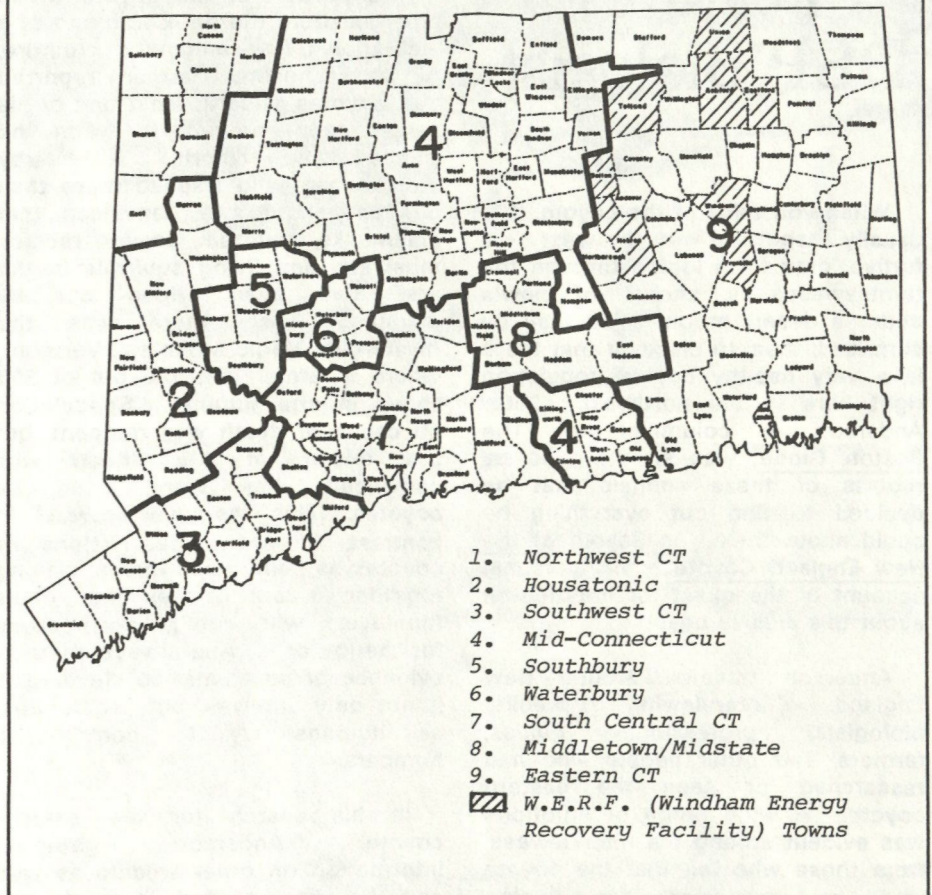
To date, all solid waste decisions have been made on a voluntary basis, with control resting with the municipality. "While it is not true in every case," says Kurker, "many towns will wait till the last minute. In order to address this situation, legislation may well be required." Such legislation has not yet been initiated, and many towns are still waiting.



*The Windham Plant: Resource recovery systems can reduce the volume of solid waste as much as 90 percent.*

Figure 3

### Wasteshed Delineations



### The Crisis: How Critical Is It?

It is unanimously agreed by those who have studied the municipal solid

waste situation that we are indeed in a period of crisis. Not only is time running out, but it is feared that time has in fact already run out. The problem is that once all preliminary





Leslie Bieber Lewis  
Citizens' Participation Coordinator

## For Your Information

### New Coyote Book Features DEP Biologist

When you think of the coyote, it is usually associated with the west -- a furtive, gray form loping through the tumbleweeds, a chorus of howls under a desert moon. You may be surprised, then, to discover that there is a very healthy coyote population right here in the northeast. Peter Anderson, a columnist for The Boston Globe, was so intrigued by reports of these animals that he decided to find out everything he could about them. In Search of the New England Coyote is his personal account of the quest for information about this elusive beast.

Anderson traveled around New England, interviewing wildlife biologists, professional guides, farmers, and other people who had researched or seen the eastern coyote. A wide range of emotions was evident among the interviewees, from those who felt that the coyote was an important but benign predator to those who swore that coyotes wiped out every bit of game in a given territory. There were also differing views on the animal's evolution. Larger than its western cousin, the eastern coyote may be

the result of an outcross to a Canadian wolf or the domestic dog. Skull measurements are usually the determining factor, but even these have proven to be inconclusive.

The portrait of the coyote which emerged from the book was one of a well-known, yet enigmatic creature. A Massachusetts farmer reported that coyotes killed at least one of his calves, and proved it when he trapped the culprit. A nearby storekeeper (who trapped more than he kept shop) was convinced that chipmunks, squirrels, beaver, rabbits, muskrats, and flying squirrels in the area had been wiped out by coyotes. Then there was the mystery of Magic Mountain, Vermont, where a farmer lost 130 out of 300 sheep in one summer. Speculation on cause of death was rampant, but the owner of the sheep was convinced they were killed by coyotes. (This was never proven.) In contrast, there are descriptions of coyotes as being loyal mates, staying together to care for their pups, or as fun-lovers who catch grasshoppers for the joy of it. And always, there is evidence of an animal so clever that it not only survives, but proliferates, as humans try to control its numbers.

In his search for the eastern coyote, Anderson gathered information on other wildlife as well and he has shared it with the reader. You find out about fishes, foxes, bobcats, and bears, including a notorious character nicknamed the "Crisco Kid." The rare (and possibly non-existent) eastern mountain lion was covered at some length.

Animals are not the only interesting subjects in the book. The people Anderson interviewed were often as colorful as the four-legged creatures they discussed. Of particular interest was a chapter which involved a University of Maine graduate student, Suzanne Caturano, and research she was doing with radio-collared coyotes. Suzanne is now a wildlife biologist with the DEP's Wildlife Bureau.

Noted photographer and author Leonard Lee Rue III has called the coyote "the smartest wild mammal in North America." In Search of the New England Coyote should pique the interest of anyone who likes reading about wildlife. Who knows? Some day, when you least expect it, you may just see one here in Connecticut. (I did one early morning as I was on my way to work -- I was very surprised!)

In Search of the New England Coyote is published by the Globe-Pequot Press of Chester, Connecticut. If you or someone you know is a fan of interesting, informative wildlife literature, it will be worth your while to track down this book.

In last month's "FYI column, the subject of hazardous household wastes was discussed. It should be noted that while some household wastes may be brought to your local landfill as a "last resort" disposal alternative, others absolutely may not. Solvents, such as paint thinners, spot removers, and engine degreasers, should be stored until an appropriate disposal alternative is available. The disposal of pesticides, especially banned products such as DDT or chlordane, may only be handled through a licensed facility or a collection day.

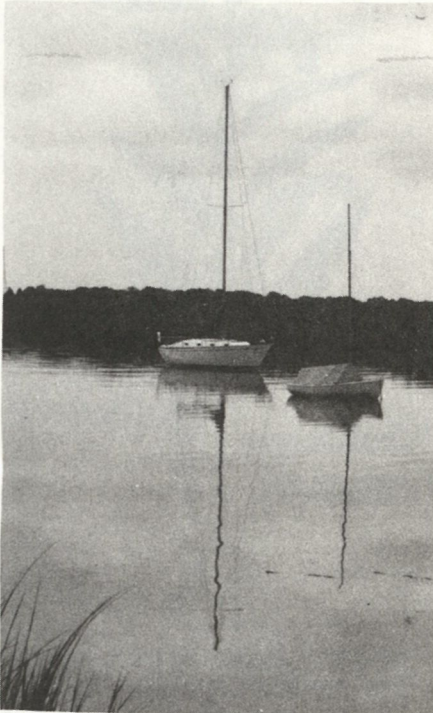


# Scenes of Summer

*By Diane Giampa, Public Participation Coordinator, Coastal Area Management*

New England is probably best known for the brisk days and brilliant colors of autumn. But those of us who also have a weakness for salt water and sea air remember that not so long ago, we were taking refuge from the heat by swimming, boating, and fishing along Connecticut's coast. A glimpse of some scenes of summer. . .

Old Lyme; Art Rocke Jr. photos



Rocky Neck State Park, East Lyme



Clinton





# Trailside Botanizing Goldenrods

By G. Winston Carter

Goldenrods, along with other composites such as asters, Joe Pye weed, and boneset, all herald the approach of autumn. Perhaps no other wildflower is more widespread in America, particularly in the eastern part of the United States. It is chiefly an American genus. England, for example, has only one species: *Solidago virgaurea*, commonly called woundwort. Many goldenrods are common along roadsides and dominate some old fields that have not recently been cultivated, while other species are found in woodland and wetland areas.

The numerous small flower heads of the goldenrod are arranged in a variety of ways, but both ray and disk flowers are present. They are usually both yellow, except in one common species called silver-rod (*Solidago bicolor*) where both are white. In some forms of other species the rays are white.

Goldenrods, as a group, are very easy to recognize and some species can be readily learned without confusion. However, there are about 75 species growing in the United States, and there are also many varieties. The tendencies of many of the species to hybridize is one of the factors that makes mastery of many of the goldenrods so difficult.

One of the ways to simplify identification of goldenrods is to observe the silhouette and attempt to place it in one of several groups. Try to decide if its flowers appear to form plume-like, elm-branched, club-like, wand-like or flat-topped clusters.

The leaves of different species also have distinguishing characteristics. Look to see if they have parallel veining or feather veining.

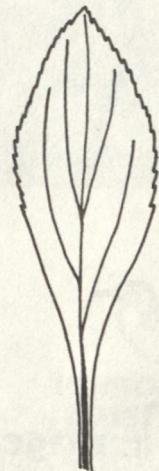
With a little practice, it will probably be possible to identify at least a dozen species without too much difficulty. The problems arise when several species of goldenrod look very similar, such as the Canada goldenrod (*Solidago canadensis*), the late goldenrod (*Solidago gigantea*), and the tall goldenrod (*Solidago altissima*), which are all common to roadsides and fields. All three may be tall (over five feet) with plume-like flowers. Their leaves are similar also and all have three parallel veins with toothed margins which are similar. It is only by noting small differences in these plants that an identification is possible. Even experts cannot always agree on how these three plants should be classified. The following goldenrods, however, are relatively easy to identify:

Early goldenrod (*Solidago juncea*) has plume-like flower clusters but the leaves are feather-veined and there are tiny winglike leaflets in the axils of its upper, thin, toothless leaves. It has large-toothed lower leaves. This species is found growing in dry soil along roadsides and in open woods.

Rough-stemmed goldenrod (*Solidago rugosa*) can be identified by its densely hairy stem and its wrinkled, hairy, deeply-toothed leaves which are feather-veined. Its flower cluster is plume-like but may



Early goldenrod  
(*Solidago juncea*)





## Rough-stemmed goldenrod (*Solidago rugosa*)



with only one vein. The latter is usually much shorter and is found near the edges of a saltmarsh. Flat-topped goldenrod is found in fields and along roadsides.

Seaside goldenrod (*Solidago sempervirens*) has club-like flower clusters which are very showy and it has smooth, often fleshy, leaves. This is mainly a coastal species.

## Lance-leaved goldenrod (*Solidago graminifolia*)



sometimes vary to appear elm-like. Look for it in thickets, roadsides, and open fields.

Flat-topped goldenrod (*Solidago graminifolia*) has a flat-topped flower cluster and the leaves are thin and untoothed with usually three to five parallel veins. The leaves are fragrant when crushed. The only species this is apt to be confused with is the slender fragrant goldenrod (*Solidago tenuifolia*) which has leaves that are more slender

Zig-zag goldenrod (*Solidago flexicaulis*) has a zig-zag stem with leaves which are very broad and well-pointed at both ends. The flowers are small clusters in the upper leaf axils and at the summit. This is a plant of woodlands and thickets.

Blue-stemmed goldenrod (*Solidago caesia*) has flower tufts in the axil of its smooth slender leaves and has a smooth bluish or purplish stem. Like the zig-zag goldenrod, it is usually found growing in woods and thickets.

Rough-leaved goldenrod (*Solidago patula*) has elm-like branching to its flower clusters. It has leaves which are very harsh and rough. The lower leaves are very large and tapering to the base. Its stem is sharply four-angled. It prefers wetland areas such as swamps, bogs, and wet meadows.

Gray goldenrod (*Solidago nemoralis*) is usually a very small species, sometimes being only six inches to a foot in height. However, at times it may reach a height of two feet. It has a plume-like flower cluster and the leaves are feather-veined. The stem is covered with dense, fine hairs which make it appear gray. It has tiny leaflets which grow in the axil of the leaves. Gray goldenrod is found growing in old fields, pastures, and in open woodlands.

Goldenrods have had a very long and interesting history and have had many uses. The name *Solidago* comes from the Latin word "solido" which means "to make whole." This undoubtedly was based on the medicinal qualities of the plant. Its use as a wound herb goes back at least to the time of the Crusades. At that time it was known as the Sarracen's wound herb. Eventually the Crusaders brought the plant to Europe. Later, in England and also in China, it was to be very highly regarded as a plant that could control bleeding from wounds. The common name woundwort, which was given to the one species of goldenrod native to England, alludes to its healing powers. It was useful for treating all kinds of sores and ulcers, particularly those of the throat and mouth. One preparation was even said to fasten teeth that were loose in the gums.



# DEP Promotes Dam Safety

## Responsibilities and Procedures Outlined in Dam Safety Program

*By the Staff of Water Resources Unit*

DEP's Dam Safety Program is charged with the responsibility of insuring the safety of the public from possible hazards posed by dams. The purpose of this article is to review that responsibility and to briefly describe the statutory scheme for regulating construction or repair of dams.

### **Construction and Repair**

Section 22a-401, et. seq., of the Connecticut General Statutes places all existing and proposed dams, dikes and similar structures in Connecticut under the jurisdiction of DEP. Dams which are considered to be unsafe may be subject to removal or repair orders. DEP's dam safety engineers review all dam construction plans regardless of the size or location of the project. If that review reveals that the potential failure of the dam poses no threat to life or property, the project may then be assented to by DEP without requiring the issuing of a state dam construction permit.

However, if the DEP engineers find that the dam, in the event of its breaking away or being otherwise damaged, might endanger life or property, then a state dam construction permit and certificate of approval are required.

When a state dam construction permit is not required, it is DEP's

practice to inform the property owner that the proposed work may require approval by the municipal inland wetland agency pursuant to the Inland Wetland Act. However, when a state dam construction permit is required, the DEP's Inland Wetland Program staff review the work for possible impact on the wetland and consistency with the policies and provisions of the Inland Wetland Act. A municipal inland wetland permit is not required for that portion of the project covered by the dam safety construction permit.

This regulatory scheme is established in Section 22a-403 of the General Statutes. The interactions between the state permit program and the municipal inland wetland permit program are set forth in Sections 22a-30-4.3.a through 22a-39-4.4 of the Administrative Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

Copies of the dam safety statutes and regulations may be obtained by writing or calling the Water Resources Unit's Dam Safety Program (Room 207, State Office Building, 165 Capitol Ave., Hartford, CT 06106; 566-7244).

### **Dam Safety Program Expanded**

As a result of Public Act 83-38, DEP's Dam Safety Program has

undergone expansion of both its statutory responsibility and its staffing levels. This legislation, titled "An Act Concerning Dam Safety," strengthened the department's ability to assure the integrity of dams and also provided mechanisms by which the state may cost-share in the repair of certain dams which benefit residents in a municipality.

P.A. 83-38 amended Section 22a-409 of the General Statutes by requiring owners of dams and similar structures (i.e., dikes, stormwater management dams, and incompletely breached dams) to register with DEP by July 1, 1984. Owners pay a registration fee which is dependent on the height of the dam. The purpose of this one-time registration program is to update the Program's dam inventory files, and particularly to provide current ownership information.

To date, out of the estimated 3,500-4,000 dams state-wide, approximately 1,800 dam owners have registered with DEP. A total of 755 of these registrations represent dams which had not previously been inventoried or reviewed by DEP Dam Safety Program engineers. The registration forms may be obtained from DEP, town clerks, or County Soil and Water Conservation district offices.



## Stormwater Management Basins

Increased construction of stormwater management basins (commonly referred to as retention or detention basins) is occurring state-wide. Such basins often require the construction of a dam or dike. These basins usually impound a minimal volume of water. Often these structures pose a potential threat if they should fail, since many are located in developed residential or commercial areas. Many of these dams require a construction permit from DEP since their failure could cause significant impact.

### Inspection Program

P.A. 83-38 further requires DEP to periodically inspect dams at a frequency dependent on a classification scheme based on the nature and extent of downstream development.

The intent of the inspection program is to view the condition of dams on a frequent enough basis to allow early detection of problems such as storm damage or structural deterioration. In this manner, dam owners can be alerted beforehand as to the need for performing routine repair and investigatory work to assure the safety of a structure. Occasionally the need arises for emergency work to be performed on a dam, particularly following a major storm. The regulations governing this inspection program are currently being drafted.

The Dam Safety Program began its stepped-up inspection program in the winter of 1983. Dams are classified as being "high," "significant," or "low" hazard dams. These classifications are based on the nature and degree of downstream development and the potential for endangerment of life and property in the event of a dam failure or misoperation. This determination is made regardless of the dam's existing condition. For instance, a "high hazard" rated dam may well be in excellent condition and may possess little potential for failure.

Inspections are being performed on a priority basis, with dams classified as "high" and "significant" hazard structures being inspected

first. There are approximately 495 dams state-wide classified as "high" and "significant" hazard structures.

### State-wide Inventory

The local Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agencies, in conjunction with town engineers and planning and zoning commissions, are valuable sources of information concerning recently constructed or recently dismantled dams. The DEP has prepared a state-wide map locating all the dams within the state's existing inventory and has mailed this map to the offices of the town clerk in each town. A number of towns have reported back to the state regarding corrections or additions to the inventory. The state Dam Safety Program is more effective with the participation of the informed public.

As was clearly demonstrated during the floods of 1982, when a number of dams failed and gave rise to considerable property damage, the availability of a complete inventory dams will provide an invaluable tool for flood contingency planning and for the allocation of emergency personnel and resources during an emergency.

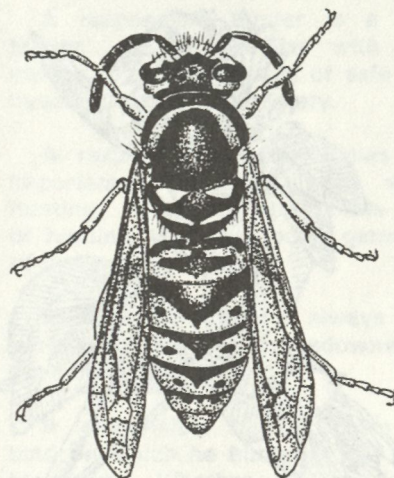
For further information on the Dam Safety Program, write or phone: DEP Dam Safety Program, Water Resources Unit, State Office Building, Hartford, CT 06106. Phone: 566-7244. ■

## Bees

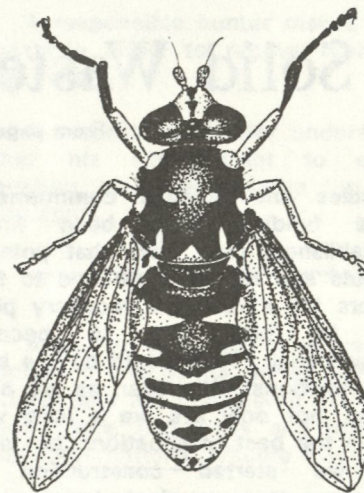
From page 9

wasp get in the car, and it becomes panic time. Flight or mayhem become the actions of choice. That is unfortunate, because either way we miss some of the most exquisite examples of insect mimicry to be found in Connecticut.

I have drawn a common bumblebee on a red-clover blossom. Perched beside it on a leaf is a bee mimic, *Bombomima fulvithorax*. They are about the same size. Both are hairy, and both are bright yellow and black, but only one of them can sting -- the bumblebee. *Bombomima* is a genus of asilid flies. There are several species in the genus, and as the name implies (*Bombus* is a genus



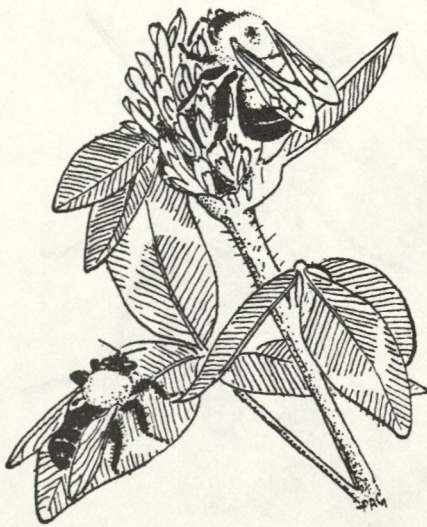
Above is the yellow jacket;  
below, a look-alike  
syrphid fly.



of bumblebee), they mimic bumblebees.

Another superb mimic is *Temnostoma alternans*, a syrphid fly, that copies our short-tempered yellow-jacket, *Vespula maculifrons*. The syrphids are called "flower flies," which gives some idea of their temperament. However, the young of some of these are aggressive predators of aphids. There are many other unrecognized performers out there and, unless anaphylaxis is a problem, it is worth the risk to unmask them. It is worth the risk to discover how badly some innocuous little bug has duped you.





A real bumblebee (top)  
and its imitator (lower),  
an asilid fly. ■

## Solid Waste

From page 13

studies and political commitments and funding have been firmly established, then from that point it would still require from two to four years for a resource recovery plant to be built and to become operational. That would be the best of situations. However, as we have seen, not only are we a long way from the best of situations, but even if we started construction of resource recovery plants today, many feel it would be too late. Counting from today, we don't have two to four years' worth of landfill space left in the state of Connecticut. That is how critical our municipal solid waste situation is.

Responsible and concerned people are addressing this crisis with energy and dedication. All agree that unless we, the citizens of Connecticut, perceive this situation and our responsibilities with clarity and straightforwardness, then the future is not good. We are being asked to join in cooperative effort and to make commitments toward solutions beneficial to all. Good people are still devoting their time and energy to this problem. They still have a hope that we will come through. ■

## Goldenrod

From page 17

During the Elizabethan period, the English paid large sums for great amounts of goldenrod that came from America. In the early part of the 1600's, *Solidago virgaurea* (woundwort) was found growing in England. This sent the price of goldenrod plummeting.

In America, the Indians and Colonists depended heavily on goldenrod. They used it internally to reduce fever, to treat bladder and kidney ailments, and as a general tonic. Externally, it was used for headache and as a poultice for boils, snake bites, ulcers, and other bleeding. As a medicine, all parts of the plant were used.

Following the Boston Tea Party, the Colonists used a substitute called Liberty Tea. The main component was from sweet goldenrod (*Solidago odora*). Another tea made from sweet goldenrod is known as Blue Mountain Tea. At present it is sold by many health stores.

The blossoms, either fresh or dried, can be used in large amounts (by the cupful) in such foods as bread, fritters, and cake batters. This makes a tasty addition. The dried blossoms were also used in tobacco mixtures. Goldenrod is an excellent but little used source of a yellow dye.

At one time, powdered goldenrod flowers were used to induce people to sneeze. It was carefully administered and was considered a good joke. This may be the origin of the belief of many that goldenrod causes hay fever. The real source of this irritation is ragweed. They both blossom about the same time, but ragweed is wind-pollinated and goldenrod is largely pollinated by butterflies and other insects.

Another interesting belief was associated with the swellings (galls) on goldenrod. They were referred to as "rheumaty buds," and were often carried around in one's pocket. It was believed that there would be relief from the pain of rheumatism as long as the grub which was

developing inside the swelling was present.

I hope from what you have read that you will become interested in starting to explore the fascinating world of the goldenrods. ■

## Legislation

From page 23

may issue an order to abate not only an actual act of pollution but he may issue an order to correct potential sources of pollution or an order to correct the violation of the hazardous waste regulations. This change allows the commissioner to extend his action against many more persons than merely those who were maintaining an actual source of pollution. This change also goes on to state that if the commissioner finds that the person who is maintaining the actual source of pollution or the potential source of pollution is not the actual owner of the property on which the pollution is being maintained, then the commissioner must by certified mail notify the owner of the property at which the source of pollution or the potential source of pollution is being maintained; he must further notify the landowner that a notice of the order will be filed on the land records in the town wherein the land is located.

3. The third major change embodied in 84-239 is the following: When the commissioner issues an order to any person to correct potential sources of pollution or to abate pollution, he shall cause a certified copy thereof to be filed on the land records. Once the source of pollution is abated, the commissioner shall file a certified copy of the certificate of compliance which shall be sent to the owner of the land at his last known post office address; the commissioner must also file on the land records a copy of the certificate of compliance, thereby protecting the future buyers of any particular piece of property. The effect of this change is that a good-faith purchaser of a piece of property will have notice that there is a potential source of pollution or an actual source of pollution on the property



prior to his purchasing the property by doing an adequate title search which is required in the state of Connecticut for any kind of real estate closing. Effective Date: October 1, 1984

*Editor's note: Public Act 84-156, which appeared in the September Citizens' Bulletin, should be corrected to read as follows: The Hazardous Waste Management Service, which is a body created by the General Assembly, may provide technical assistance to industries for hazardous waste management.* ■

## Governor's Day on State Service to the Aging

If you are a senior citizen, the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection has a number of programs which can benefit you. These will be the focus of the DEP information booth at the Governor's Day on State Services for the Aging, which will be held at the New Haven Coliseum on October 23.

The DEP's services range from outdoor recreation and natural resource management to the monitoring of pollutants which can have an impact on the health of older people. For instance, citizens over 62 can receive a free Charter Oak Pass, good for admission to state parks. Also free to those 65 and over are small game hunting and/or fishing licenses. Other DEP functions of interest to the elderly include pollution alerts, noise control, and x-ray equipment monitoring. Information on all of these programs will be available at the Coliseum.

In addition to informational material, drawings will be held for prizes such as tree seedlings, special park passes, free fishing at a State Fish Hatchery, and much more. Posters and charts will help explain how the Department works and its

areas of jurisdiction. Numerous hand-outs will be available as well. Interested citizens can stop by the booth or write to the Department of Environmental Protection, Information and Education Unit, State Office Building, Hartford, CT 06106. ■

## A Checklist for the Responsible Hunter

Call it good sportsmanship or ethical hunting: It all comes down to a hunter's sense of responsibility -- toward himself, the game he hunts, and to the land.

There's a lot that goes into being an ethical hunter. And, in each case, it's up to the individual hunter to understand and be knowledgeable about his responsibilities in the field. As the new hunting seasons begin, here are some suggestions on good sportsmanship from the National Shooting Sports Foundation:

A responsible hunter is always familiar with all the game laws and regulations that apply to the species he hunts.

A responsible hunter is knowledgeable about his game's habits and can identify game in the field.

A responsible hunter practices judging distance and shoots only at game within range.

A responsible hunter always uses firearms and ammunition appropriate for the game hunted.

A responsible hunter makes sure his rifle is sighted-in and practices at the range to develop his marksmanship abilities.

A responsible hunter understands the importance of being familiar with the safe and proper operation of his gun.

A responsible hunter is a safe hunter. He is familiar with and always follows the rules of safe gun handling and hunting safety.

A responsible hunter knows the importance of being seen while hunting. If appropriate for his type of hunting, he wears outer garments of fluorescent orange.

A responsible hunter always gets permission from the landowner to hunt on private land.

A responsible hunter treats the land on which he hunts as if it were his own. Whether it's public or private land, he always packs out his litter and is careful to leave gates as he found them.

A responsible hunter knows that firearms safety in the home is just as important as firearms safety in the field.

A responsible hunter makes every possible effort to recover game in the field.

A responsible hunter understands that his commitment to ethical hunting helps ensure the future of the sport. ■

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Although bats are often seen as omens of evil in the United States, in China bats are considered bearers of good luck, happiness and long life, says International Wildlife magazine. ■

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A mountain nanny goat and her kid have a remarkably close relationship, reports National Wildlife magazine. Throughout their entire 10 to 11 month association, a kid rarely strays farther than a yard or two from its nanny's side, even though essentially weaned after one month. ■

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At one time or another, beavers have probably changed almost every watershed on North America, reports National Wildlife magazine. For example, a 1960 excavation down to bedrock revealed the area now called Boston Common was created by busy beavers. ■



# New Legislation From the 1984 General Assembly

## Acts Pertaining to Environmentalists and Sportsmen

By Thomas Cadden

(This is a continuation of an article  
which appeared in last month's Citizens' Bulletin.)

### Solid Waste Management

#### S.A. 84-30: AN ACT CONCERNING BEVERAGE CONTAINER HOLDERS.

Any device which is used to hold together beverage containers must decompose by photodegradation, chemical degradation, or biodegradation within a reasonable time after exposure to the elements or it shall not be allowed in Connecticut.  
Effective Date: October 1, 1984

#### S.A. 84-33: AN ACT CONCERNING THE TRANSFER OF STATE LAND FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSTRUCTING AN ENERGY PRODUCING FACILITY IN MIDDLETOWN.

This act provides for the Commissioner of Administrative Services to allow the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management to sell or lease five acres of land at the site of the Connecticut Valley Hospital in Middletown, and to transfer this land through sale or lease to the Midstate Regional Resource Recovery Authority for the development of a resource recovery plant on the grounds of Connecticut Valley Hospital. Effective Date: October 1, 1984

#### P.A. 84-121: AN ACT CONCERNING BEVERAGE CONTAINERS.

Amends Connecticut's deposit law by modifying the definition of distributor, defining "redemption center," requiring uniformity in refund value throughout the system, requiring registration of redemption centers, setting requirements for redeeming discontinued brands, requiring pick-up of containers by distributors, setting payment schedules for distributors, and expanding the commissioner's regulatory authority.  
Effective Date: October 1, 1984

#### P.A. 84-331: AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONNECTICUT RESOURCES RECOVERY AUTHORITY.

Provides that the Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority shall not be construed to be a department, institution, or agency of the state of Connecticut. The second operative section to this act provides that the Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority may use and operate a solid waste disposal area, pursuant to a permit issued by the Department of Environmental Protection, on any real property owned by CRRA on or

before the effective date of this particular act, regardless of the right of any local body to regulate through zoning land usage for solid waste disposal. Section 3 provides that the reimbursement for any facility, system, or incinerator that has been approved by the commissioner shall commence from the date of commercial operations, i.e., the date that a facility or system routinely and effectively accepts and processes an amount of solid waste that is 75 percent of the design capacity of such facility or system. The contractual agreements commence on the date of commercial operation or the date when the facility is at least 75 percent operative and effectively processes the waste.  
Effective Date: Passage

### Water Resources

#### P.A. 84-29: AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONNECTICUT WATER DIVERSION POLICY ACT.

Provides the commissioner the authority to waive the public hearing where a proposed diversion does not involve a transfer of water for use from one subregional drainage basin



to another. The commissioner must hold a hearing, however, if he receives a petition signed by a least twenty-five persons within the comment period of the department's Public Notice on the application. Effective Date: Passage

P.A. 84-45: AN ACT CONCERNING LIABILITY OF MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARDS.

Extends immunity from liability, as set forth in CGS 4-165, to members or employees of the soil and water district boards established pursuant to Sec. 22a-315 of the Connecticut General Statutes. Effective Date: Passage

P.A. 84-127 : AN ACT CONCERNING APPEALS OF DECISIONS OR ORDERS CONCERNING DAMS AND RESERVOIRS.

Requires the commissioner to publish notice of his decision in a newspaper having a general circulation in any municipality in which a dam which is the subject of an order is located.

The act is designed to protect those individuals who either live upstream or downstream of a dam structure and who would be affected by any change in the level of water or direction of a body of water as a result of the change in a dam. Effective Date: Passage

P.A. 84-452: AN ACT CONCERNING LOW-INTEREST STATE LOANS FOR REPAIR OF DAMS.

Allows the State Bond Commission from time to time to authorize the issuance of bonds of the state in an amount not to exceed two million dollars for the purpose of providing funds for low interest loans to: 1) investor-owned water companies which supply water to at least 25, but less than 10,000 customers; 2) municipally-owned water companies; and 3) owners of private dams which the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection has determined benefit the public.

These loans are for the repair of dams subject to the jurisdiction of the DEP.

The Public Act further states that any proceeds from the repayment of the low-interest loans and the principal on the loans shall be put into a special revolving fund. The purpose of this Public Act is to earmark certain state funds to be used for low-interest loans for dam repairs premised on the assumption that the repair of these dams is for the overall public good and in some cases may be a substantial burden on the individual or individuals who own or operate such dams. Effective Date: July 1, 1984

P.A. 84-536: AN ACT CONCERNING FLOOD MANAGEMENT BY STATE AGENCIES.

This act (a) converts the existing Executive Order No. 18 on Flood Plan Management (by Ella Grasso, 1977) to law, (b) sets specific standards for state agency development affecting flood zones, and (c) specifies the flood management duties of the Commissioner of Environmental Protection. Passage maintains the state's eligibility in the National Flood Insurance Program and helps maintain the state's future eligibility for federal disaster assistance. Effective Date: October 1, 1984

#### Water Compliance

P.A. 84-81: AN ACT CONCERNING PROVISION OF POTABLE DRINKING WATER.

This Public Act has two effective provisions:

1. It provides that the revolving fund, known as the Emergency Spill Response Fund in CGS 22a-451, can be used for reimbursement for the short-term provision of potable drinking water and for the cost of capital improvements for the provision of potable drinking water.

2. Also provides that if the commissioner determines that pollution of the groundwater has occurred or can be expected to occur and that such a condition renders the groundwater unusable for public drinking water, he may issue an order to the person or the municipality responsible for such pollution, requiring that they provide potable drinking water in such quantities as the commissioner determines necessary for drinking and other personal and domestic

uses. Further, there is provided in the Public Act a loan provision where the municipality or the person responsible for the pollution, having no liquid assets, may apply to the commissioner for a grant from any funds established for the purposes of providing potable drinking water. Effective Date: October 1, 1984

P.A. 84-219: AN ACT CONCERNING PROCEDURES FOR ISSUANCE OF WATER POLLUTION CONTROL PERMITS.

This bill establishes a formal procedure including public notice for the reissuance of state wastewater discharge permits, makes changes in the state water pollution control program to insure continued delegation of the federal NPDES permit program, and allows the Commissioner of Environmental Protection the authority to establish appropriate procedures, criteria, and standards for determining if a discharge would cause pollution and if a treatment system is adequate to protect the waters of the state from pollution. Effective Date: Passage

P.A. 84-239: AN ACT CONCERNING ORDERS TO CORRECT POTENTIAL SOURCES OF POLLUTION AND TO PROVIDE NOTICE TO SUBSEQUENT LANDOWNERS OF SOURCES OF POLLUTION.

This Public Act has three parts: 1. The first part amends section 22a-432 of the General Statutes to provide that if the commissioner finds any person has established a facility or created a condition which is a potential source of pollution, then that person may be responsible and may be cited by the commissioner for the violation. This Public Act allows the commissioner to look back to find the parties who are responsible for establishing the facility or creating the conditions which need to be corrected or the potential source of pollution. It also provides that the DEP is not only allowed to seek an injunction against the person maintaining a potential source of pollution, but is now allowed to take an action which would result in an order to the party to take necessary steps to correct potential sources of pollution. 2. The second major change embodied in 84-239 provides the following: Whenever the commissioner issues an order to abate pollution, he now



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